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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
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Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS
THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet
Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 25. Economic Commission for Europe

1. At its 39th meeting on 5 June, the Committee considered section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations underlined the important role of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in Europe in light of the current economic and social changes in the region and supported the activities of ECE as programmed under section 25. Some delegations commended the efforts undertaken by ECE in restructuring its activities in order to meet new challenges. Other delegations felt that the proposed programme of work in terms of its scope and composition did not adequately reflect the decisions taken by the Commission in 1990 with regard to the transformation of ECE activities towards priority areas.

3. Some delegations emphasized that further efforts for restructuring of ECE activities should be undertaken through redeployment of resources from low priority areas of activities, thus obviating the need for additional resources. Other delegations expressed the need for additional resources.

4. Some delegations suggested that more attention should be given to interregional cooperation between ECE and the other regional commissions and with specialized agencies and United Nations programmes. Some delegations proposed that the environmental aspects of the Chernobyl nuclear plant incident should be reflected within the Environment subprogramme.

5. Some delegations indicated that references under several subprogrammes to cooperation between ECE and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance should be deleted from the section due to the recent dissolution of that intergovernmental body.

6. Several delegations expressed the view that the level of resources proposed for the section was not justified. Other delegations supported the level of resource proposed. Some delegations expressed reservations regarding the proposed increase of staff resources of the ECE secretariat, while other delegations supported the proposals.

7. Some delegations expressed their concern with regard to the absence of information on conference-servicing and other support costs provided to ECE by the United Nations Office at Geneva, indicating that this hampered comparison of the full ECE costs with those of other regional commissions and other secretariat units.

Conclusions and recommendation

8. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.
